



News Release

TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Forest Service invites public to celebrate International Migratory Bird Day

JUNEAU, Alaska—

Tongass National Forest will host two weekend events focusing on local birds in celebration of International Migratory Bird Day. Southeast Alaska hosts a variety of long-distance travelers, including Arctic terns, a species now believed to have the longest life-time journey of any animal.

On Saturday, May 7, there will be a live songbird-banding demonstration at the Juneau Community Garden pavilion. U.S. Forest Service wildlife technicians will give attendees an up-close look at local species. Birds will be captured in nets, fitted with light-weight tags and safely released. Netting will be ongoing between 7:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

On Sunday, May 8, meet to welcome back the Arctic terns at Photo Point Trail near Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center. Zoomed-in views through high-powered spotting scopes, art, prizes, and activities for learners of all ages are planned. Stop by between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.

For more information or directions, contact Gwen Baluss gbaluss@fs.fed.us or call 789-6254.



Photo: Gwen Baluss

From the ends of the earth to our backyard: Arctic terns fly as far as Antarctica in the winter. Parent brings fish to fledgling (left) on glacial ice at Mendenhall Lake.

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